Forensic Science Activity/Lab Report Format

**Introduction** :

This section will review some of the basic information that you will need for the activity or lab that follows. Please note that you will be required to read and review material prior to beginning most activities. Often, labs will accompany a lecture or will follow immediately after; thus, you will have an application of the content covered.

**NOTE THAT THERE IS NO HYPOTHESIS!!!** The worst mistake a forensic scientist can make is to formulate an opinion based solely on intuition. You must base all conclusions strictly on the evidence.

**Materials:**

Materials are to be listed in a numerical format, similar to the ingredients listed in a recipe.

**Procedures:**

The procedure will follow a similar format as the materials, except that these steps need to be listed in the order they are performed.

**Data/Results:**

This section will vary greatly from lab to lab. You will be graded on your care and skill in collecting the evidence, as well as your interpretation of the evidence.

**Conclusion:**

Your conclusion will be brief, as you are always looking for a single answer, and not a generalization. It is crucial that your conclusion be supported by the evidence you collected.

**Note: The consequences for a shoddy collection and interpretation of evidence, not to mention “hunches” are as follows: (1) a guilty person is free (2) an innocent person goes to prison (3) You will receive a grade much less than you want.**